

Trump pal busted for allegedly running hooker ring on yacht

BY BRIAN KATES RICH SCHAPIRO

DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITERS Friday, October 1, 2010, 4:00 AM



Real estate mogul Tevfik Arif, with Ivanka and Donald Trump in 2007,

allegedly supplied women like ones pictured below for prostitution encounters aboard \$60M yacht Savarona (bottom). (VON HOLDEN/WIREIMAGE)

Ed. Note: In April 2012, Tevfik Arif was acquitted by a Turkish court of all charges in connection with the incident reported here. The court also found that none of the women on the yacht was under the age of 18. –Updated October 19, 2012.

A [New York](#) real estate mogul with ties to [Donald Trump](#) is at the center of an international sex scandal - suspected of running a high-priced prostitution ring.

Tevfik Arif, 57, has been detained in [Turkey](#) on suspicion of setting up trysts between wealthy businessmen and Eastern European models - some underage - aboard a \$60 million yacht once used by the nation's founder, [Mustafa Ataturk](#).

[Arif](#), whose [Bayrock Group](#) co-developed the [Trump SoHo](#) and the [Trump International Hotel and Tower](#) in [Fort Lauderdale](#), was among 10 people rounded up in Tuesday's raid on suspicion of running a prostitution ring.

[Prosecutor Yusuf Hakki Dogan](#) said the Savarona yacht was used twice for sexcapades, the Turkish newspaper [Hurriyet](#) reported.

"This is the man who defiled the Savarona," read the headline on the cover of the Turkish paper [Milliyet](#), beside a photo of Arif.

Ten models from [Russia](#) and [Ukraine](#) were detained, but one was released, [Bloomberg News](#) reported. Two of the women were underage.

The businessmen reportedly paid \$3,000 to \$10,000 per night to bed the women aboard the 450-foot yacht.

The luxury vessel, which boasts 16 suites, a 282-foot gold-trimmed grand staircase, a movie theater, Turkish bath and helicopter pad, was used by Ataturk before he died in 1938.

In 1989, Turkish businessman Kahraman Sadikoglu paid the government for the right to operate the yacht, which he reportedly rents out for \$30,000 to \$40,000 a day.



Russian, [Kyrgyz](#) and Kazakh businessmen and top government officials were also among those detained, [Bloomberg News](#) reported. Last night, Arif was being questioned at a police station near the Mediterranean resort town of [Antalya](#).



Tevfik Arif, Donald Trump in implied women below for partners aboard na (bottom).

Antalya provincial spokesman [Mahmut Deniz](#) said there's been no decision on whether to press charges.

Arif is the victim of a "smear campaign" and will "vigorously defend himself in any court of law," his lawyer, [Engin Agyuzlu](#), said in an email to Bloomberg News.

In addition to the Trump properties in New York and [Florida](#), Arif's firm developed the Trump International Hotel and Tower [Phoenix](#), the Waterpointe, a residential development in [Whitestone, Queens](#), and the [Riverhead](#) Resorts in [Suffolk County](#), L.I.

In an interview in 2007, Arif extolled the benefits of his relationship with The Donald.

"He's been very helpful to us from the beginning and he's been very helpful in opening some doors," Arif told Real Estate Weekly.

Photos from the 2007 launch party for the Trump SoHo Hotel show Trump and Arif palling around together. Arif was also photographed beside Trump and his three kids: Eric, Donald Jr., and Ivanka.

A spokeswoman for Trump declined to comment on his relationship with Arif.



Tevfik Arif, Donald Trump in implied women

A source said Trump hasn't spoken to Arif "in years."

The Kazakh-born Arif worked for the Ministry of Commerce and Trade in the former [Soviet Union](#) for 17 years, serving as the deputy director of its Department of Hotel Management, according to Real Estate Weekly.

After moving to the [U.S.](#), Arif's first project was the redevelopment of a 280,000 square-foot waterfront shopping center in [Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn](#). [Loehmann's](#) Seaport Plaza was sold in 2008 for a reported \$24 million.

Arif founded Bayrock in 2001, which he operates out of an office on Fifth Ave.

"Bayrock knows nothing about the matter," said a spokeswoman for the firm.

elow for
ters aboard
na (bottom).
OM)

Arif owns a three-story mansion in [Port Washington](#), L.I., worth more than \$6 million, records show.

In recent years, Bayrock has been the target of multiple lawsuits.

In suits filed in New York and [Delaware](#), former Bayrock finance director [Jody Kriss](#) claims that the firm defrauded the [IRS](#) and

embezzled millions from its subsidiaries.

In a separate lawsuit filed in August in [Manhattan Federal Court](#), 15 buyers of the Trump SoHo Hotel sued Arif, Trump, his children, and Arif's partner, [Alex Sapir](#), charging they had inflated sales in their marketing pitches to encourage them to buy into the condo.

rschapiro@nydailynews.com

© 2016 New York Daily News